



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Health Care Financing Administration

MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 22, 2000

**FROM:** Director  
Survey and Certification Group  
Center for Medicaid and State Operations

**SUBJECT:** Organ Procurement Organizations (OPO) Announcement

**TO:** Associate Regional Administrators  
Division of Medicaid and State Operations  
Regions 1-X

The OPOs certification and designation period for 2000 begins April 1, 2000. All regional offices must place advertisements in all major newspapers in their regions announcing that all OPOs must apply for territories by May 1, 2000.

We suggest the following language:

¶The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) announces that all territories for OPOs are open for application. Applications may be obtained at, and will be submitted to the (city) RO at (address). All applications must be submitted by May 1, 2000.®

¶Section 1138 of the Social Security Act allows for Medicare reimbursement for expenses incurred in obtaining and transporting organs for transplant. Organizations apply for and are awarded exclusive territories, which can be no smaller than a metropolitan statistical area, and have no upper size limit. In the event more than one qualified organization applies for the same territory, HCFA uses specific criteria to determine the award. Further information concerning eligibility for application and the awards procedure may be obtained from the RO mentioned above.®

Advertisements must be placed by April 1, 2000.

Steven A. Pelovitz